

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method to be implemented by a server for an on-line transaction service, the method comprising:

receiving an electronic indication of an inventory allocation;
completing a plurality of on-line sales transactions against said allocation; and
in response to the depletion of said allocation, automatically requesting an additional inventory allocation, said request based on a predetermined frequency for requests for an additional inventory allocation and upon the rate at which on-line sales transactions are being completed.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further including maintaining a count of available inventory allocation and decrementing said count as each on-line transaction is completed.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving an electronic indication of an inventory allocation includes receiving said inventory allocation from a remote site.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving an electronic indication of an inventory allocation includes receiving said allocation over a network.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 wherein receiving an electronic indication of an inventory allocation includes receiving said allocation over the Internet.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein requesting an additional inventory allocation includes determining whether the inventory allocation needs to be replenished.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein determining whether the inventory allocation needs to be replenished includes determining whether an inventory allocation has been reduced through the completion of on-line transactions below a dynamically-set preset level.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 ~~wherein determining whether the inventory allocation needs to be replenished includes determining~~ including, if the rate at which on-line transactions are being completed is high, setting the dynamically-set level high and automatically requesting a large additional inventory allocation and implementing a dynamic calculation that considers the rate at which on-line transactions are being completed.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 including, ~~if utilizing~~ if the rate at which on-line transactions are completed is low, setting the dynamically-set level low and automatically requesting a small ~~and the rate at which additional inventory is to be requested to determine whether the inventory allocation needs to be replenished.~~

10. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a medium for storing instructions that enable a server for an on-line sales transaction service computer to:

receive an electronic indication of an inventory allocation;

complete a plurality of on-line sales transactions against said allocation; and

in response to the depletion of said allocation, automatically request an additional inventory allocation based on a predetermined frequency for requests for an additional inventory allocation and upon the rate at which on-line sales transactions are being completed.

11. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 10 further storing instructions that enable a server for an on-line sales transaction service computer to maintain a count of available inventory allocation and decrement said count as each on-line transaction occurs.

12. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 10 further storing instructions that enable a server for an on-line sales transaction service computer to receive an inventory allocation from a remote site.

13. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 10 further storing instructions that enable a server for an on-line sales transaction service computer to receive said allocation over a network.

14. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 13 further storing instructions that enable a server for an on-line sales transaction service ~~computer~~ to receive said allocation over the Internet.

15. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 10 further storing instructions that enable a server for an on-line sales transaction service ~~computer~~ to determine whether to request an additional inventory allocation based on the number of on-line sales transactions completed against said allocation.

16. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 15 further storing instructions that enable a server for an on-line sales transaction service ~~computer~~ to determine whether the inventory allocation has been reduced below a dynamically-set ~~preset~~ level.

17. (Currently Amended) The article of claim ~~[[15]]~~ 16 further storing instructions that enable a server for an on-line sales transaction service to set the dynamically-set level high and to automatically request a large additional inventory allocation if ~~computer to implement a dynamic calculation that considers~~ the rate at which on-line transactions are being completed is high.

18. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 17 further storing instructions that enable a server for an on-line sales transaction service to set the dynamically-set level low and to automatically request a small additional inventory allocation if ~~computer to utilize~~ the rate at which on-line transactions are completed is low and ~~the rate at which additional inventory is to be requested to determine whether the inventory allocation needs to be replenished.~~

19. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
a server that completes a plurality of on-line sales transactions against an electronic indication of an inventory allocation;
a memory coupled to said server that stores said inventory allocation; and
said server decrements said inventory allocation with each on-line sales transaction, monitors the inventory allocation and automatically requests an additional inventory allocation based on a predetermined frequency for requests for an additional inventory allocation and upon the rate at which on-line sales transactions are being completed.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19 wherein said server is coupled to the Internet and completes transactions over the Internet.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19 wherein said server dynamically determines when to request an additional inventory allocation based ~~at least in part~~ on the rate at which transactions are being completed.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21 wherein said server includes an inventory low indicator that is set dynamically, said server requests [[an]] a larger additional inventory allocation if said inventory low indicator is dynamically set high ~~based at least in part on a predetermined frequency for requests for an additional inventory allocation.~~

Claims 23-30 (Canceled).

31. (New) The system of claim 22 wherein said server requests a smaller additional inventory allocation if said inventory low indicator is dynamically set low.

32. (New) The system of claim 19 wherein the server automatically requests an additional inventory based on a predetermined frequency for requests that is agreed upon with an on-line vendor.

33. (New) The system of claim 19 wherein said system is an on-line sales transaction service.